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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 FEA-02 AID-20

CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04

INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01

SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03 EA-11 DRC-01 /174 W
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R 060915Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3720
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SENV, NL, GW, US
SUBJ: DUTCH APPROACH CONCERNING US-FRG ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: STAFF MEMBER OF MFA DIRECTORATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AFFAIRS (SOETERS) HAS CONTACTED EMBOFF TO INQUIRE INTO BACKGROUND OF RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND FRG ON COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS. ACCORDING TO SOETERS, DUTCH WERE SURPRISED AT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT, SINCE NIETHER US NOR FRG HAD INFORMED GON THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION. SOETERS POSED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON WHICH HE SAID MFA WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION. END SUMMARY.

1. H. SOETERS, WHO IS "INTERNING" IN MFA'S DIRECTORATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AFFAIRS (VAN SCHAIK'S SHOP), CALLED ON EMBOFF JUNE 5 TO INQUIRE INTO BACKGROUND OF AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION JUST
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CONCLUDED BETWEEN US AND FRG. HE HAD COPY OF STATE'S

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PRESS RELEASE NO. 182 OF MAY 9 (WHICH INCLUDES TEXT OF AGREEMENT) WHICH MFA RECEIVED FROM DUTCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON. SOETERS TOLD EMBOFF THAT NO ONE ATMFA HAD BEEN AWARE THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN US AND FRG AND THAT COLLEAGUES IN OTHER MINISTRIES OF GON HAD BEEN LIKEWISE UNAWARE. IMPLICATION IS THAT NEITHER US NOR FRG CONSULTED WITH OR INFORMED DUTCH AT ANY STAGE.

2. SOETERS SAID HIS SUPERIORS IN MFA HAVE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE AGREEMENT WHICH THEY HAD ASKED SOETERS TO RAISE WITH US INFORMALLY. SIMILAR APPROACH HAS BEEN MADE TO FRG EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE. QUESTIONS FOLLOW:

(A) WHO TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING THE AGREEMENT-WAS IT THE US OR THE FRG?

(B) WHAT IS THE RATIONALE OF THE USG FOR ENTERING INTO THE AGREEMENT IN QUESTION?

(C) WHAT ELEMENTS IN THE AGREEMENT ARE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE OR IMPORTANCE TO THE US?

(D) DOES THE AGREEMENT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCOM-PLISHING GOALS THAT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS,SUCH AS OECD OR CCMS? (IF SO, WHAT ARE SUCH GOALS?)

(E) WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF ARTICLE II (G)-DOES IT MEAN THAT US AND FRG WILL CONSULT EACH OTHER BEFORE TAKING DEFINITIVE POSITIONS OR ADOPTING SPECIFIC MEASURES CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OR CONTROL?

(F) DOES THE USG CONTEMPLATE ENTERING INTO SIMILAR AGREE-MENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON A BILATERAL BASIS?

(G) WHAT RELATIONSHIP, IF ANY, IS THERE BETWEEN THE US-FRG AGREEMENT AND THE RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE DRAFT ATLANTIC DECLARATION?

3. AS AN ASIDE, SOETERS STATED THAT A COLLEAGUE OF HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD VERY RECENTLY HEARD OVER GERMAN RADIO THAT THE US AND THE PRC HAD JUST CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. SOETERS WONDERED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD CONFIRM THAT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON APPROPRIATE REPLIES TO PRECEDING QUESTIONS THAT WE MAY PASS ON TO SOETERS. FOR OUR INFO AND POSSIBLE USE,

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PLEASE ALSO ADVISE WHETHER DUTCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
WAS EVER INFORMED OF AGREEMENT PRIOR TO ITS SIGNING (WE
HAVE NO RECORD THERE THAT WE WERE EVER ADVISED OR REQUESTED
TO INFORM GON CONCERNING AGREEMENT).

5. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS EVIDENT THAT DUTCH FEEL MIFFED
AT HAVING BEEN PRESENTED WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI BY TWO OF
THEIR MOST IMPORTANT ALLIES CONCERNING A SUBJECT OF
SOME IMPORTANCE TO THEM, THEY HAVE TAKEN GREAT PAINS
TO AVOID OPENLY VOICING THEIR DISPLEASURE, PREFERRING
INSTEAD TO IMPLY IT THROUGH POINTED QUESTIONS. FOR
THIS THEY EMPLOYED SOETERS, WHO TECHNICALLY IS NOT AN
MFA OFFICIAL,BUT RATHER AN "INTERN" AT MFA WHO IS
PREPARING HIMSELF FOR DUTCH FOREIGN SERVICE ENTRANCE
EXAMINATION LATER THIS MONTH. IT IS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE,
THAT DUTCH MAY HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF US-FRG INTENTIONS
EARLIER BUT THE INFORMATION MAY NOT HAVE BEEN REPORTED
TO THE HAGUE. IN ANY EVENT, WE HOPE DEPARTMENT
WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER ABOVE QUERIES EXPEDITIOUSLY SO THAT
WE MAY PROCEED TO SMOOTH RUFFLED FEATHERS. EMBASSY WILL
TRANSMIT REPLIES TO MFA THROUGH SAME CHANNEL, I.E. SOETERS,
TO KEEP AFFAIR AT LOW KEY.
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